

19 June 1947.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

The witness at this morning's hearings on H.R. 2319 was Rear Admiral Ellis M. Zacharias, USN, Ret., who stated that he would like to testify on the intelligence provisions of the bill in executive session. It was agreed that this would be arranged.

During the questioning which followed Zacharias' prepared statement, Rep. Walter Judd, (R., Minn.), remarked that he agreed with the Admiral on the subject of intelligence, that he believed that it deserved more study than almost anything else in the bill.

Rep. Robert Rich, (R., Pa.), asked Zacharias his opinion of the Mundt bill authorizing the Voice of America program. "I believe that we must maintain the physical machinery which now exists," Zacharias replied, "because I am confident we will have to use it in the future. If that machinery is allowed to lapse, and if the provisions for that machinery are allowed to lapse, I am afraid there will be disintegration, and we will have difficulty in getting it started again.

"Whether or not it should be under the State Department is another matter. My personal feeling is that it should not, because it is going to be a source of continual embarrassment to the State Department. The Voice of America is -- we must call it what it is -- propaganda. Unfortunately the word propaganda has a poor connotation. But it is going to be vital to our national security and the implementation of our national policy. It is something that cannot be discussed in the open too much without losing its effect. For that reason, it comes under the category of intelligence activities. It is my intention to recommend that the so-called Voice of America program be placed under the Central Intelligence Group, for reasons which I will explain in executive session. I do feel, however, that the present machinery must be maintained now."